

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Without prejudice, please amend the application as follows:

In the drawings:

Please substitute the informal drawings filed initially for the proposed formal drawings attached hereto.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page9, line 16 with the following:

-- As mentioned before, the present invention is able to prepare an end face of a fiber with any desired geometry. Referring to Fig. 5a-c, a fiber 51 is shown with different an end faces 53, 54, 55 of 0°, 8° and 45° ~~are shown~~, respectively. Noteworthy is the rounded edge 52 of fiber 1 which is a distinction over mechanically cleaved and polished fibers.

Furthermore, as shown in Figure 4, laser cleaving of the present invention can be used to form a wedged-shaped fiber end 41. This wedge shape was formed by passing the fiber through the laser beam at different angles. The wedge shaped fiber end 41 is slightly blunted presumably due to surface tension of the softened fiber during laser ablation. The blunted wedge shape therefore presents a cylinder-type lens 42 at the fiber end. Such a configuration is well suited for optically coupling the fiber with pump-type lasers or other devices which emit or receive an elliptical beam of light.--